

# America's FUTURE

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## THE MILITARY DEBATE

The debate about American military policy is growing hot again. It is a political year, so both parties are looking for issues. The three military services want as much as they can get of the huge defense appropriations. High-ranking officers leave the services and write books and articles highly critical of our military policy — and of each other. With the development of nuclear weapons, guided missiles, and the new problems of space exploration, the issue is even more tangl-

ed. And there remains the question: After the expenditure of all these billions, are we ahead of, or behind Soviet Russia?

All this leaves the average American, who must foot the bill, in a state of complete confusion. He is inclined to leave military matters to the military. But he can't help feeling uneasy about the fact that the experts seem to be at loggerheads with each other.

May I suggest that this state of confusion arises from a basic fact — a fact of

concern to every American, even though he may know nothing about military matters. The fundamental issue is this: Military policy does not operate in a vacuum. It operates as part of the foreign policy of a nation. And the confusion in our military policy arises from the fact that we do not seem to have a clear and definite foreign policy.

For instance, there is a debate now raging inside the services over the need for a large army, versus the need for an arsenal of nuclear weapons and guided missiles. But this question cannot be answered sensibly until we answer the basic question: What are we trying to defend? It is true that as a result

of past blunders, we have certain commitments and obligations in other parts of the world. But are we determined to get into every dogfight in every corner of the globe? Are we ready to rush to the defense of every erstwhile European and Asiatic ally today - and then discover they have become our enemies tomorrow? Are we going to resist communism in one place, and coddle it in another? Or is it our policy to defend the United States - to build a foreign policy with no other objective than the safeguarding of purely American interests? These are the questions we must answer before we can form a sane military policy which the American people can afford to support.

## A BIG JOB

When the President delivered his State of the Union message to Congress recently, several observers remarked that it should have been called a State of the World message - because it dealt much more with other nations than with America. This has gotten to be a habit with our presidents, ever since Franklin D. Roosevelt began to think of himself as a world

figure. But, as someone has observed, being President of the United States is a pretty big job all by itself. It would seem pretty nearly time that our presidents began devoting all their energies to the task for which they are elected.

One of the chief concerns of our leaders now is what are called underdeveloped nations. Evidently there is

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no relief in sight for the poor American taxpayer, so long as there is left in the world a single backward nation. Incidentally, the politicians are getting a little nervous about the taxpayers' growing resistance to these endless foreign handouts. But instead of stopping the giveaways, our leaders are now trying to convince some of the prosperous Western European nations to join in the handouts. Now it is well enough to say that it's about time some other nations shared their wealth with the backward countries. But European nations — unlike the United States — have a habit of looking after their own interests first. They may take a good

look at the heavily taxed and debt-ridden American citizen — and decide they prefer to keep their money at home.

## A FALSE NOTION

This whole idea of handouts to backward nations is built on a completely false notion. The Washington giveaway boys are trying to tell us that when we were a small and weak country, we had to turn to Europe for help. They don't mention the fact that we did not get handouts from European governments. Private European investors put their funds in American enterprises. They saw a chance to make great profits by investing in a growing, energetic, *capitalistic* country. I stress the word *capitalistic* — or call it *free enterprise* if you prefer — because this is the nub of the matter. These backward nations of the world are bogged down in cultures and systems which keep them backward. What they need — assuming they are dissatisfied with their way of life — is not handouts from other governments, but a *capitalist* philosophy. That is the only way in which the energies of their people can be released, so that they can pull their own countries up

out of their backward status just as the Americans once did. But what do we do with our handouts to these under-developed nations? We shore up socialist and collectivist regimes and systems which cannot, by their very nature, provide the atmosphere of freedom which is necessary to growth. And there is something ironical in now demanding

that Western European nations join us in the giveaways. Western Europe has been gradually mitigating or throwing off her socialist experiments. That is why some of her countries are growing prosperous. Now America wants them to join her on the road to fiscal bankruptcy by making handouts to backward socialist lands.

## THE TAXPAYER HOLDS THE BAG

Whether it is government handouts abroad, or government handouts here at home, the results are always the same - chaos, confusion, and the taxpayer holding the bag. For instance, the federal government now has \$9,500,000,000 of your money tied up in farm surpluses. What this means is that the government took \$9,500,000,000 from you in taxes and used it to buy up the crops of certain farmers - not all farmers, just selected groups of farmers. This gave these special pets of the politicians higher prices for the products they sent to market. But who paid the higher prices? You did. You paid them twice - once in taxes to buy up the surpluses, and again when you went to the store to buy food. Now the

government bureaucrats - who are supposed to know how to run everybody's business - are stuck with nearly 10 billion dollars' worth of farm products they don't know what to do with.

The outcome is always the same, whenever government is permitted to stick its busy fingers into state, local, or private affairs. Several years ago, the federal government decided to go in for something which states and localities had managed quite well before - building highways. The idea was that the Washington government would put up \$90 for every \$10 the states would spend on roads. Of course, the government first had to get the \$90 out of the states. The states could have spent it better

themselves, without the waste and extravagance which always results when people kid themselves into thinking the money is coming from faraway Washington. On the score of cost alone, the highway program has already increased 73 percent in only five years. A Senate committee looked into a few projects in just one state. Witnesses testifying about shady dealings and cor-

ruption took the Fifth Amendment more than 200 times! Now the whole federal highway program has become such a colossal mess that no one seems to know what to do about it.

If we keep up these foreign and domestic handouts long enough, we might wake up one day to find that we, too, have become a backward nation.

- John T. Flynn

*Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 1/17/60*

## REACTIONARY, NOT PROGRESSIVE

"Morally speaking, it is reactionary rather than progressive whenever the state expands its authority at the expense of society. Governmental handouts, subsidies and interventions of every kind, no matter how dressed up with a specious humanitarianism, are essentially coercive measures by the state, encroaching more and more on

the voluntary action of society. The taxes paid by the individual, to support the expanding galaxy of governmental welfare measures, diminish by just that much what he might contribute under the promptings of his own conscience through associations and in directions of his own choosing." *Felix Morley in his book FREEDOM AND FEDERALISM*

## FACTUAL, ENROSSING, BRIEF

The pamphlet has had a long and honorable history in man's struggle for freedom. And it occupies a very special place in the story of American liberty. It might almost be said that without the pamphleteer,

there would have been no American Revolution. When Tom Paine fired the imagination of the oppressed colonists with his pamphlet *Common Sense*, he was simply following in the tradition of

liberty-loving Englishmen. In times of great stress - and control of the then rudimentary means of communication by the powers-that-be - they too had turned to the pamphlet to inspire and inform the people.

Since that time, America has never been without her pamphlets and pamphleteers. They have waxed and waned as the need arose - oftentimes almost the last refuge of those who would "give the people light, and they will find their way" (in the words of a great newspaper chain). This does not imply any aspersions on the American press, or periodical and book publishers, or the newer electronic marvels of communication. But there can fall upon what is now called "mass media" a deadening conformity, in which the facts essential to a people's knowledge are either ignored or distorted, often without conscious intent. Perhaps the "liberal" conformity of the last three decades - with a few notable exceptions in book-publishing, the press and broadcasting - explains the resurgence of the pamphlet in modern America.

But in these hectic and inflationary times, another factor appears. Newspapers

and broadcasting must, of necessity, deal with news and events as they happen, with little time or inclination for delving deeply into background and explanation. Books and magazines, through no fault of their own, become increasingly expensive. Add to this the problem of the harried American who, with all his vaunted leisure, finds he must read on the run, and you have another reason for the popularity of the succinct and interesting pamphlet.

Whatever the explanation, America's Future, Inc., the publishers of this newsletter, also publishes as an educational public service, a series of *America's Future Pamphlets*. Each one covers a subject of major importance to all Americans in "these times that try men's souls" (to paraphrase the American Republic's original pamphleteer). Each is factual, informative, educational, but engrossing reading - and each is brief, none running more than 24 pages. The prices - for single copies and multiple orders - are as moderate as it is possible to make them. Following is a list, and brief description, of the pamphlets published to date:

**THE NATURE OF THE ENEMY**—A clear, factual account of Red aims, practices and performances—past, present and future.

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